



From left: Ryan Hayes, Ted Larson and Rob Nederman assemble testing kits from Heritage Labs

WE PASSED THE TEST(S) with flying colors!

JCDS builds testing kits for Heritage Labs

JCDS has developed a contract with a new customer, Heritage Labs of Olathe, and the results have been overwhelmingly positive! Sales and Marketing Specialist Dan Freeman pursued Heritage for more than a year to gain this valuable contract which has brought

employment opportunities to most of the JCDS work floor.

Heritage Labs is a premier testing laboratory and testing facility for the insurance industry. In 1998, Heritage Labs developed a partnership with Hooper Holmes/Portamedic.

continued on page 3

inside this issue...

4 JCDS Night at the Barn Players	5 Shred it and Forget it!	7 Remembering Mark Elmore	10 Restyle Runway recap and photo gallery!
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The State of Kansas 2010 Legislative Session...

An Unexpected Yet Happy Result

by Maury Thompson, JCDS Executive Director

In the last edition of Images, I detailed the dramatic reduction in funding for the community developmental disabilities (DD) system since July 1, 2009 and expressed concern about prospects for pending legislative DD budget proposals for the state fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2010. Those proposals contained recommendations to eliminate all state general funds (SGF) from the budget, effectively eliminating services to all but those who were Medicaid eligible.

Despite these dire predictions, the ultimately approved state budget was far better than anticipated for the DD service system. In fact, SGF were restored to the Governor's post-allotment levels! This will allow continued funding for everyone receiving SGF supported day and residential services in Johnson County, and permit about forty families to participate in the Family Subsidy program. (Family Subsidy provides a meager \$2,500 a year to help each eligible family care for their loved one while they wait – in many cases for years – for needed services.)

However, the most startling result was the addition of more than three million dollars (totaling in excess of ten million when matched with federal funds) to serve additional persons from the statewide waiting list! This amount of money will permit a few hundred of the four thousand waiting to access critically needed services sometime after July 1, 2010. From a statistical perspective, about twenty percent of these individuals should be Johnson County residents.

In a year of declining revenues, when the Governor and legislature had the unenviable job of developing a balanced budget for the State, any hopes for additional resources – no matter how badly needed – were slim at best.

So, to what can we attribute this most unexpected, yet happy, result?

A significant amount of the credit goes to YOU – those who are interested, committed, and



took the time to contact your legislators regarding the critically pressing support needs of our more than 700 friends and neighbors with DD, and their families. Your work this year and in the past was vital this session!

Thanks is also due legislators who responded to our concerns by acting to ensure that the needs of their fellow citizens with DD were addressed before the close of the session. (Now many of those legislators are being criticized for their efforts to address those needs).

I encourage you to find out how your elected representatives supported your interests and desires - or didn't – and then share your thoughts with them. It's never too soon to begin your advocacy for next year!

We are now beginning the development of our legislative platform for 2011. We will continue to work to ensure every resident with DD is receiving the supports they need to increase their independence and productivity, and their integration and inclusion into community life.



Rob Nederman enjoys working on the Heritage contract.

JCDS consumers are paid to assemble Heritage Lab's 18-piece blood/urine test kit.

"This has provided us with more business than we've had in a tremendously long time," Dan said. "(Heritage) has been fantastic to work for. I'm not sure how it could be any better. They are exceptionally accommodating to what we need."

The contract started in March 2010 and within the first month, JCDS produced 60,000 kits.



Peggy Zook has already purchased a new TV with wages she earned by assembling Heritage Lab kits.

Dan said many thanks are due to Heritage Lab's president Mark Patterson and COO Lori Gorman, both of whom believed strongly in JCDS' reputation of exceptional work ethic and quality production.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be able to partner with an organization of this quality and caliber," Lori said.

Many of JCDS' subcontract employers have been with JCDS for years, collectively providing hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenues annually to cover consumer wages and some program costs. Many have shown a strong corporate commitment to regularly utilizing agency-based subcontract services.

But like any successful partnership, both sides must benefit! While the employer gains access to a skilled, reliable, cost-

effective work force, JCDS workers gain steady work and higher wages! And JCDS workers are quick to recognize the financial benefits the Heritage contract has brought them.

JCDS has the distinction of being the only organization that Heritage sends contract work to and we are responsible for assembling 100 percent of the blood/urine test kits.

"JCDS met our volume demand the first month," Lori said. "They have exceeded the quality requirement."

Lori also said she has a personal connection to JCDS staff and consumers.

"I like to swing by every 3-4 weeks just to say hi to everyone on the work floor," Lori said. "I really enjoy taking time to see all the amazing work that they do."

JCDS salutes the corporate commitment demonstrated by businesses who regularly utilize agency-based work activity programs, and welcomes Heritage with open arms. We look forward to many more years of partnership!

JCDS salutes these 2010 subcontract business partners!

Akro Fireguard
Automated Business System
Bushnell Sports Optics
Clinical Reference Labs
Commerce Bank
Cramer Products, Inc.
Electronics Supply Company
Gill Studios
Heritage Labs
Infinity Fasteners, Inc.
Midwest Duct Cleaning Services, Inc.
Print Time
Robbie Manufacturing, Inc.

An Evening with...

JCDS Night at the Barn Players proved a memorable event!



The Boys Next Door's talented cast.

JCDS Night at the Barn Players' was a celebration of locally-acclaimed theater combined with raising awareness about disabilities.

This exciting collaboration started several months ago when Barn Players community theater group approached JCDS with news about their June production of *The Boys Next Door*, a life-affirming comedy about four men with intellectual disabilities living in a group home. Board president Vida Bikales and board member Melinda Whitman indicated that the theater group would love to partner with JCDS in some way on this production.

A number of JCDS service recipients volunteered to hand out programs and take tickets at several of the performances. In addition, staff agreed to host a "JCDS Night" on Thursday, June 10 where seats were available for a discounted rate.

More than 100 people came to enjoy this special evening, including Johnson County Commissioner Chairwoman Annabeth Surbaugh and County Commissioner's Ed Eilert, Calvin Hayden and Doug Wood.

The exceptionally moving play took the audience on a journey through the day-to-day lives of four very different individuals with disabilities. The five main characters we meet are Arnold, who is a nervous, obsessive man who provides some much-needed comic relief; Norman, a man who works at a doughnut shop and dates a woman from another group home; Lucien, the lovable roommate who has more severe intellectual disabilities; and Barry, the schizophrenic who gives inexpensive golf lessons and has an

abusive father. All these men are supervised by Jack, who cares deeply for them but also feels burned out by his responsibility to them.

The audience was an energetic, diverse crowd who are touched by JCDS in a variety of ways. Many JCDS consumers and direct support professionals came to the production as well as family members, county commissioners, JCDS and Friends of JCDS board members, and a whole host of other community partners and friends. Everyone enjoyed the chance to mingle and socialize at the special wine and cheese reception at intermission.

The comments of Janet Hoffman, whose team helped coordinate the event for JCDS, reflected the play's successful connection with its audience. "So many people have stopped me to 'just chat' about the play and share their perceptions of the characters, their favorite scenes, and how the story related to our work here at JCDS."

"I DO think The Barn Players did some significant 'friend-raising' through this play," she added.

"The whole experience of including *The Boys Next Door* in our 2010 season has been so much more important and meaningful than just putting on a successful show," affirmed Vida Bikales. "The unions we have forged and friends we have made, the awareness (hopefully) created and thanks given have opened up doors, and worlds."

"We now have a much better appreciation for what the mentally challenged CAN do and not what they CAN'T do," she said.

Thanks to all who came out to support JCDS Night and our hats are off to the Barn Players' for putting on a stellar performance and being such gracious hosts of this event!



(From left), Lurena Mead, Roberta Eveslage, Annabeth Surbaugh and Sue Storm mingled at the wine and cheese (and cake!) reception held at intermission.



Conservation Corner

Shred it And forget it!

The recycling efforts at JCDS combine teamwork, ingenuity and good old-fashioned elbow grease. A new high-capacity shredder and two single-operator shredders were purchased with support from a 2009 Community Development Block Grant to help JCDS expand job training services for current consumers.

A shredding production line at JCDS is turning confidential documents into recyclable material.

“We’re recycling for the right reasons,” Dan Freeman, Sales and Marketing Specialist, said. “This provides employment opportunities for 12 to 15 people.”

Currently, the work group shreds documents for the entire JCDS facility as well as another county agency.

The shredding area is cutting-edge for JCDS consumers, consisting of six workstations with hydraulic tables, ergonomic chairs and anti-fatigue mats as well as various jigs to aid with accessibility of the equipment.

Shredding is done on a bi-weekly basis and provides a competitive wage for our consumers. They have the process down to a well-oiled machine!



Michelle Rosborough works on the shredding assembly line.

Some of the future goals include increasing the assembly line to employ at least 30 people and become a shredding source for many more county agencies.

JCDS is also actively involved in recycling other materials such as printed paper, newsprint, magazines and cardboard. A workgroup sorts all materials and places them in designated bins in the JCDS warehouse. All staff are invited to bring newspapers and magazines to the Elmore Center to be recycled.

Way to go green, JCDS!



Keith Harper diligently operates the hydraulic can crusher.

CRUSHING CANS

This high-tech device has helped JCDS recycling efforts and added new jobs for the work floor. Cans are collected from the Mark D. Elmore Center and washed in a contained rinsing unit. The cans are then crushed by a hydraulic can crusher (left) and put into recycling bins.



Maury Thompson, Patti Combs, Janet Hoffman and Brenda Youness.



Maury Thompson and Annie Hickcox.



From left: Patty Dumovich presented Winnie Tierney with her 5-year Service Award. Her family came all the way from Kenya to celebrate with her. Far right, Maury Thompson.

**MARK DEAN ELMORE
VIP AWARD RECIPIENTS**

2nd Quarter 2010

Patti Combs, Administrative Assistant
for Friends of JCDS

Annie Hickcox, Senior Employment
Coach

Stefani Domenico, Senior Residential
Provider

Mark Dean Elmore VIP Award honors Vision, Innovation and Performance

Each quarter, JCDS employees have an opportunity to participate in a program to recognize their peers for exceptional performance in support of the JCDS mission.

The VIP program offers a formal process for recognizing staff and saying, “thank you” for a job well done based on information shared by co-workers and others familiar with their work.

The award was named after Mark Elmore, the agency’s long-time Executive Director, who passed away

in May 2005.

The Mark Dean Elmore Award celebrates excellence in making our Vision a reality,

Innovation in work processes or consumer care, and excellence in work Performance.

Recipients of the award receive a Certificate of Appreciation, a customized lapel pin symbolizing accomplishment, and their choice of either a \$100 bonus or a day off with pay.

Congratulations to all the VIP Award winners and nominees!



Remembering Mark Elmore

Disability pioneer, advocate and friend

On May 15, 2005, JCDS unexpectedly lost its forward-thinking leader, Mark D. Elmore, to complications from a brain tumor. Five years later, his memory lives on in the hearts of many staff members and consumers and through the aptly named Mark D. Elmore Center.

Mark took the reins as Executive Director of what was then called Johnson County Mental Retardation Center in 1978. Under his leadership, the then-small agency moved from staff cutbacks and financial instability to become a large, flourishing organization--one which has now received ten consecutive three-year national accreditation awards.

Known as “the heart and soul” of JCDS, Mark was a man of enormous warmth, spirit and boundless energy. He loved talking (among other things) about his grand-kids, NASCAR, Kansas’ many “roadside revelations,” and the virtues of eating dessert first! No one was ever a stranger to Mark.

But underlying his magnetic personality lay a strong ethical character, respect for human dignity, and a true calling to his work. His vision of a community where people with intellectual disabilities could live, work and participate in all aspects of daily life helped reshape an often inhumane service system characterized by bad institutional care.

“Mark’s impact on the developmental disability system in the State of Kansas is a lasting legacy,” said Maury Thompson, JCDS’ Executive Director since 2007. “He was one of the founding fathers of the community-based system,” he added.



Mark Elmore never stopped advocating on behalf of Kansans with intellectual disabilities! This photo was taken during “Push Day” 2005 just prior to his death.



Mark Elmore

Maury fondly recalls his relationship with Mark. “One of the most memorable times was during my departure from here to take the job as Executive Director of Tri-Valley,” Maury said. “He was one of the first to congratulate me, and he asked me to let him know if there was anything he or JCDS as an organization could do to help me in my new position. He truly cared about people and was a very generous man.”

Shelly Toft, Executive Assistant, said Mark was the type of person who wouldn’t ask anyone to do anything he wouldn’t do himself.

“He really cared about everyone here, and wanted to see staff and consumers succeed,” Shelly said. “He had a dream for this place.”

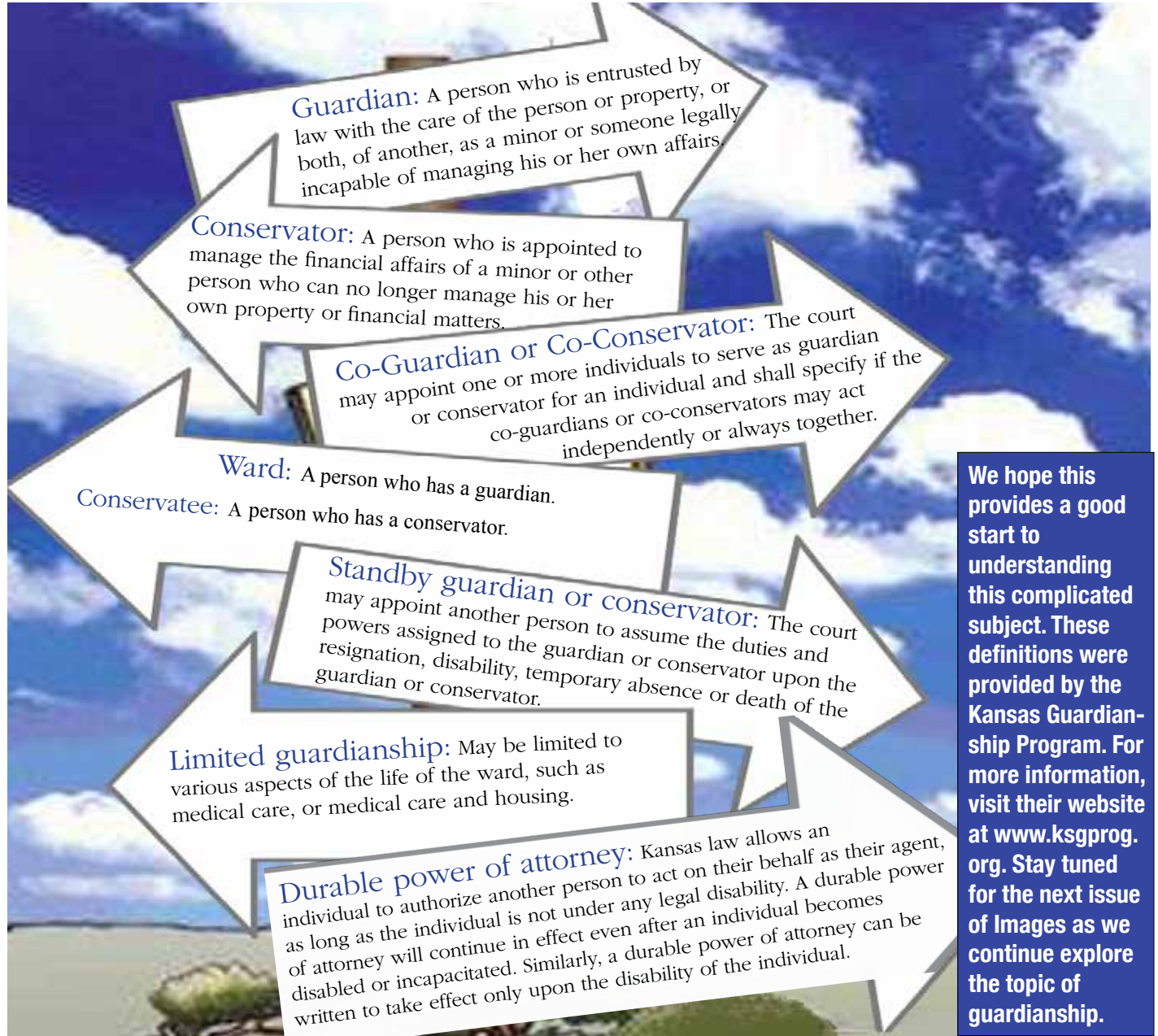
Friends of JCDS Executive Director Janet Hoffman also appreciates Mark’s long-term impact on JCDS and the lives of service recipients. “I’m grateful for having had the opportunity to know Mark and to help him build a charitable legacy through the Friends of JCDS,” she said. “Although I still miss him, it’s gratifying to see how his generous and compassionate spirit continues to be manifested in the lives of others through the good work of Friends.”

Mark would surely have applauded the persistence of so many advocates who, throughout the recently-completed legislative session, succeeded in their efforts to give voice to the hundreds of “Invisible Kansans” who are still waiting for DD services. But of course, he’d remind us that the work is not finished! There are many men, women and children with disabilities who continue to need our advocacy and support. In the spirit of Mark D. Elmore, let’s keep at it!

Second article in new Guardianship series . . .

Guardianship Definitions

Guardianship or conservatorship is an attempt by the state to provide a way to help and protect a person when that person is incapable of self-care or of acting in his or her own best interest. These options, however, should only be used as a method of last resort and considered only after all other lesser restrictive alternatives have been explored. Here are some definitions that may help to understand the complexities of guardianship.



We hope this provides a good start to understanding this complicated subject. These definitions were provided by the Kansas Guardianship Program. For more information, visit their website at www.ksgprog.org. Stay tuned for the next issue of Images as we continue explore the topic of guardianship.

AGENCIES THAT CAN HELP

Where to call in cases of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation

SRS Kansas City Metro
Protection Report Center
(KCM PRC)
M-F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
1.866.215.9077

Statewide Abuse Hotline
(For After-Hours Reporting)
1.800.922.5330

Kansas Advocacy &
Protective Services
(KAPS)
1.785.273.9661
Toll Free: 1.877.776.1541

Anna McNamara,
Quality Assurance
for Johnson County's CDDO

913.826.2511
Social Security
Administrative Fraud
Hotline
To report misuse or abuse
of SS funds
1.800.269.0271
or TTY 1.866.501.2101

SPRING FEST CELEBRATION



Good friends! From left: Tom Litchfield, Doug Smith and Mark Smith enjoy their picnic dinner on May 27.

May 27 was a fine day for a Spring celebration and dance at the Santa Fe Commons in downtown Overland Park. JCDS case managers grilled up hotdogs for more than 350 people!

John Todd the DJ played some summer tunes and the crowd enjoyed the antics of an animated mime.

The event was funded by the Friends of JCDS.



Jamie Cureton and David Redel share a laugh and enjoy music at Spring Fest.



Christina Riccuito and Lurina Nixon take a break from dancing at the Spring celebration



Will you be MIME? Barbara Corkran hangs out with a new friend.



To left: Amber Koontz gets ready to dig into her festive meal!



FRIENDS^{of} JCDS

Building Resources for People with Disabilities



A HUGE SUCCESS!

**Not-so-mellow
yellow:
Models in Colin
Coit's collection,
Lemon Line.**

**Photo by
Shawnee Barron**



Restyle Runway 2010 included three essential ingredients - catwalk, cocktails and contributing to a worthy cause!

More than 400 people came to see the most unique fashion show in town on May 7.

Twenty local aspiring designers re-worked clothing from Goodwill Industries and their collections were truly spectacular, showing the audience how re-using and restyling clothes can be fashionable and economical.

The event was held at the Overland Park Sheraton Hotel and a great time was had by all. Guests enjoyed a cocktail party and an appetizer and dessert buffet following the show.

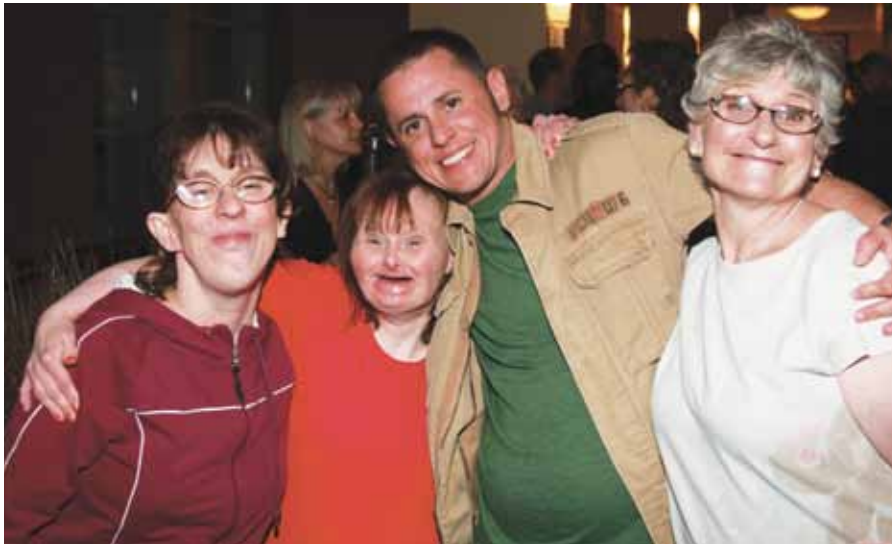
The show was a dazzling displaying of talent, creativity and resourcefulness.

Taking home the grand prize, a \$1000 scholarship, was designer Laurie Wilson. Laurie's whimsical collection titled "Cool Season Blossoms" was praised for creativity, lavish colors and detailed, hand-made embellishments.

Jihaeng Lee, a Johnson County Community College (JCCC) student, won the \$750 second-place prize for her "Delight in Love" collection. Michelle Crow, also a JCCC student won the third-place prize of \$500 for her "Fall Forward" collection.

The collections were modeled by The Agency KC and volunteer models, some were JCDS clients. Celebrity models included Holly Starr, 38 The Spot, Mike Boehm, Lenexa mayor, Laura McConwell, Mission mayor and Danielle Bounds, 2010 Miss United States Air.

continued on page 11



JCDS models Lurina Nixon, Cheryl Yonts, Jake Eisinger and Christina Riccuito. Photo by Sarah Winston.



Models from Lisa Demaree's collection. Photo by Shawnee Barron.

continued from page 11

Our gratitude goes out to the volunteer judges, Anne Brownfield, founder and curator of the Historic Garment District Museum in Kansas City; Tom Dooley, retail operations vice president for Helping Hand of Goodwill Industries, Eastern Kansas/Western Missouri region, and Heather Krafft, freelance fashion stylist, writer and personal shopper. A huge thank you goes to Brenda Youness, Restyle Runway chairman and Friends of JCDS board member, who work tirelessly to make this event a success!

Want to wear one of the original designs? You can bid on your favorite ensembles on Goodwill's online auction site, www.shopgoodwill.com. Click on the search button and select "MO-Kansas City" for the seller category.

Friends of JCDS raised more than \$36,000 to support JCDS' accessible housing, emergency assistance, assistive technology and social and recreational projects.

Thanks to all who came to enjoy the show and support Friends. See you next year!

For more photos, please visit www.friendsofjcds.com.



Fashion judges Heather Krafft, Anne Brownfield, Restyle Runway committee chair Brenda Youness and judge Tom Dooley. Photo by Sarah Winston.



First place winner Laurie Wilson and her daughter, Whitney Wilson. Photo by Sarah Winston.



38 The Spot's Holly Starr. Photo by Trevor Goodwin.

Our newest Friend

Friends of JCDS welcomes new board member



Michelle Gressel

The newest Friends board member has a zest for life and helping people with special needs.

From a young age, Michelle Gressel wanted to make a difference in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

Her passion started when she taught special swimming lessons in high school and she continued to volunteer during college when she coached for the Special Olympics.

After majoring in recreational therapy at Pittsburg State University, she took her first job as a recreational therapist at Osawatomie State Hospital.

Michelle continues to be very active in local charities and organizations including TLC for Children & Families, Rotary Club and Special Olympics. She is the Director of Sales at the Residence Inn by Marriot in Olathe and serves on the Board of Directors of the Olathe Chamber of Commerce.

After taking a tour of JCDS with Leadership Olathe and meeting the convivial John Holt, Channel 4 news anchor and Friends of JCDS chairman, Michelle said she was impressed.

“I saw John a few weeks later at another event and he had remembered my name,” Michelle said. “That definitely left an impression.”

When Michelle and her daughter came to see the Friends of JCDS fundraiser fashion show, Restyle Runway, Michelle said that sealed the deal!

“I’m very active in fundraisers and it was so fun to come and enjoy this event. It was so refreshing to be at a fundraiser that wasn’t stuffy,” Michelle said. “I thought to myself, ‘This is the piece of the puzzle that is missing from my life.’”

Michelle said she is thrilled to be a part of the Friends Board of Directors and set a good example for her family. She is married with three children, Jacob, Chloe Mae and Luke. They live in Gardner and are active in their church.

“I think it’s really important for my children to see people with developmental disabilities,” Michelle said. “At the core, we’re all just people who need love and acceptance. I want my children to participate in this mission.”

Michelle said they plan to visit the residents of the two Friends houses in Gardner regularly and see if they want to hang out or go to activities together.

Welcome aboard, Michelle! We are excited to have you as a part of our Friends of JCDS Board!



Michelle and her daughter, Chloe Mae, at the 2010 Restyle Runway fashion show fundraiser.



Memberships and Donations

March 13, 2010 - June 18, 2010

DONOR GIVING LEVELS

FRIEND	\$0 — \$499
GRACE	\$500 — \$999
WISH	\$1,000 — \$2,499
HOPE	\$2,500 — \$4,999
JOY	\$5,000 — \$9,999
FAITH	\$10,000 — \$24,999
LIFE	\$25,000 — \$100,000

HOPE

Dr. Michael & Mrs. Ruth Fedotin

WISH

Arthur Butler
Ben Craig
Jim & Pam Huckleberry
Homer & Eva Jean Lewis
Steve & Nancy Swenson

GRACE

John Holt
Mel & Lore Mallin
Jim & Patricia Scott

FRIENDS

Margery Blust
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hauber
Diane Hill
Sharon Hilt
Mary Jane Zahner

IN MEMORY OF...

Tim Burner

Mr. & Mrs. John Baum

Frances Baxter
Linda K. Eby
Mary Lou Grindinger
Robert & Marjorie Hansen
Merrill & Mary Lou Holmberg
Richard & Nancy Houser
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Gene & Thyrsa Olson
O. Gertrude Sharp
Mary Kay Smith
Eunice Martin & Carol Stuart
Richard & Nancy Stuart
Bill & Patricia Tallman
Larry & Barbara Vestal
Lyle Wilke

Mike Daniels

MariAnne Douglas & Jim Geck
Janet Hoffman & Ken McGregor

Mark D. Elmore

Jeanette Elmore
Janet Hoffman

IN HONOR OF...

Leslie Evan's Birthday

Marya Schott

Chris Johnston's 40th Birthday

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Robert Bibens
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Pamela Carson
Janet Hoffman & Ken McGregor
Jean Johnston
Steve & Anne Lambert
Jim & Molly Porter
Lou & Lonna Thiem
Maury & Angie Thompson
John & Leslie VonBargen

Rusty Richardson

Jeffrey & Rosina Root

To donate to Friends of JCDS via PayPal, please visit our website at www.friendsofjcds.com



2010 RESTYLE RUNWAY SPONSORS

Our special thanks to all the many individuals, companies, civic and philanthropic organizations who have lent the Friends of JCDS their continued, gracious support.

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Weaver's A-OK Exterminators

Fighting for a cause!

Mixed Martial Arts Expo raises funds for Friends of JCDS



Friends of JCDS board members (from left) John Copeland, John Holt, Brenda Youness and Friends of JCDS president Maury Thompson wore custom-designed MMA volunteer t-shirts.

On May 22nd, Friends of JCDS teamed up with The Blue Corner, the premier local amateur Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) promoter and Outlaw Cigar South for a wild(ly) successful fundraiser!

The day proved to be a great opportunity to make new friends and tell them about Friends of JCDS.

Patrons were treated to food, beer and entertainment. Local MMA athletes demonstrated sparring, grappling and training exercises in the Outlaw Cigar parking lot.

There was also a poker tournament and a raffle to win prizes.

Friends of JCDS board members came to help serve food and mingle with a diverse crowd.

Over \$2,500 in proceeds went to Friends of JCDS!



Deb Bozarth and Brenda Trowbridge had a great time at the MMA Expo!



From left, The Blue Corner's Brian Miller, former KC Chief Will Shields, Friends of JCDS Board Members Tammy Nigus and Maury Thompson, and The Blue Corner founder Ben Noguerras. Joining The Blue Corner and The Outlaw Cigar Company in this fundraising effort were Ringside and 68's Inside Sports.

Are You a Facebook fan yet?

In the world of social media, there are Facebook fans and there are bystanders! Become a "Fan" of Friends of JCDS on Facebook. Our page is updated regularly with news stories, Friends event photos, and informative links for all our Friends!



To find us, go to www.facebook.com and search for "Friends of JCDS."

JCDS calendar of events

July

- 15** Friends of JCDS Board of Directors Meeting
11:45 a.m.
JCDS Annex
- 21** Monthly Birthday Bash for Consumers sponsored by Friends of JCDS
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.
Mark D. Elmore Center

August

- 18** Monthly Birthday Bash for Consumers sponsored by Friends of JCDS
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.
Mark D. Elmore Center
- 24** JCDS Governing Board Meeting
5:30 p.m.
Mark D. Elmore Center

September

- 15** Monthly Birthday Bash for Consumers sponsored by Friends of JCDS
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.
Mark D. Elmore Center
- 16** Friends of JCDS Board of Directors Meeting
11:45 a.m.
JCDS Annex
- 23** Dorothy K. Dorfman Picnic
4:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Blue Valley Recreation Complex
9701 W. 137th St.
Overland Park, KS

2010 JCDS
Governing Board

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Joseph Vader

VICE-CHAIRMAN
Dale Chaffin

SECRETARY
Gayle Richardson

TREASURER
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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Johnson County government does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability in employment or provision of services. JCDS is an agency of Johnson County government. JCDS' programs and services are partially funded on a contractual basis with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. JCDS is accredited by CARE, an international rehabilitation accrediting commission.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Maury L. Thompson

EDITOR
Holly Carrington

images

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Johnson County Developmental Supports
The Mark D. Elmore Center
10501 Lackman Road
Lenexa, KS 66219 -1223
913.826.2626 FAX 913.826.2627
e-mail: jcdsinfo@jocoks.com

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JCDS to celebrate 10th anniversary of the Dorothy K. Dorfman Picnic Mark Your Calendars for Thursday, September 23rd!

Dorothy Dorfman loved a good party. As the 10th anniversary of the Dorothy K. Dorfman Picnic and Fun Fest approaches, we remember the life of a beloved advocate for people with intellectual disabilities.

Throughout her life, Dorothy was instrumental in building a more inclusive community by promoting the availability of community-based services for people with mental retardation. Dorothy and her husband Allan funded the Linda Dorfman House in memory of their daughter and it has the distinction of being one of the first group homes to open in Johnson County.

When the Linda Dorfman house was sold in 2002, the Dorfman family set out to find a new way to continue Dorothy's legacy. The family decided that an annual picnic and fun fest for people served by JCDS, family members and staff would be a fitting way to remember Dorothy.

This year, the Dorfman family will gather from near and far on September 23 to join the celebration.

"I'm looking forward to seeing my sister and brother-in-law who are coming in from Los Angeles, and nephew, who lives in New York. We will enjoy being together in honor of my mom," Charlie Dorfman, son of Dorothy and Allen, said.

Reflecting on his mother's advocacy efforts, Charlie remembers her determination and compassion.



Dorothy Dorfman

"I can remember listening to my mom spend all night typing letters to parents, encouraging them to visit their children, who were in institutions. She would give parents rides to Parsons and Winfield, so they could see their children. I remember she would know all the people by name and bring them presents when she would visit."

Charlie said he is grateful for the Dorfman picnic's success through the years.

"We've been fortunate enough to sustain it and carry it on ever since," Charlie said. "It's always been great and the people who participate are great. The staff at JCDS does such a wonderful job coordinating the event."